

DAVIDSONVILLE HISTORIC STATE PARK

On the Black River, among stately oaks and colorful maples, visitors discover Davidsonville Historic State Park, the birthplace of Arkansas's current government. In the northeastern foothills of the Ozark Mountains of Randolph County, Davidsonville sits near the confluence of the Black, Eleven Point and Spring Rivers.

HISTORY

Davidsonville Historic State Park preserves and protects the site of historic Davidsonville. Established in 1815, it was the seat of Lawrence County which, at that time, comprised roughly the northern third of Arkansas. Davidsonville was the location of Arkansas's first courthouse, post office and land office. It flourished through trade and travel along local waterways which connected Davidsonville to the Mississippi River, the United States and the world.

In 1829, the county seat was relocated and the town began to decline. Today, little is known of Davidsonville's history after 1829 and few above ground remains are visible. The Davidsonville townsite and surrounding lands were designated a state park in 1957 to preserve the historical remnants and natural environment of the area.

In 1979, the Arkansas Archeological Survey began conducting excavations which continue today. Archeologists used the original surveyor's plat to locate remains of homes and businesses. These investigations have uncovered tens of thousands of artifacts including ceramics, bricks, trash pits, tools, buttons, earrings, coins and combs. These material remains, along with available documentary sources such as deeds, birth and death certificates, marriage records and newspaper articles, create a picture of life at Davidsonville and in frontier America in the early 19th century.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Programs ♦ A Park Interpreter provides programs year-round. Depending upon the season, programs include guided history and nature hikes, living history, slide shows, demonstrations, workshops, special events and weekend evening programs. School, scout and other groups are encouraged to request special programs year-round. Children 7-12 should inquire about our new State Park Explorer Program.

Exhibits ♦ New exhibits based on recent archeology tell the story of Davidsonville using artifacts found during excavations. In addition, new wayside exhibits interpret the historic townsite and point out locations of businesses and residences. The brochure "Davidsonville Discovered" will help you learn more about this historic town and let you take home a bit of Arkansas history.

Trails ♦

- **Historic Townsite Trail:** 1/2 mile, easy, paved, barrier-free: see exhibits above.
- **Scott Cemetery Trail:** 1/2 mile, easy: walk to this post-Civil War cemetery.
- **Trapper Lake Trail:** 1 mile, easy to moderate: Meanders around the 12-acre lake. A brochure is available.
- **Black River Trail:** 1.5 miles, easy to moderate: Wanders through the woods, along the banks of the Black River and passes the historic Philips-Reeves Cemetery. A brochure is available.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Camping ♦ Campers with self-contained RV units have a choice of 24 campsites with water and electrical hookups. Tent campers will find solitude in the "tent only" camping area (25 sites; no hookups). A modern bathhouse and sanitary dump station are in the campground.

NOTE: Campers **must** register at the Visitor Center **before** occupying a campsite. All sites may be reserved up to one year in advance. Please call to check availability.

Fishing and Boating ♦ The Black River and nearby Spring and Eleven Point Rivers are noted for a variety of fish. A free launch ramp on the Black River is available. Visitors are welcome to explore the many shoals and eddies along these beautiful rivers. Additionally, an earthen dam forms a 12-acre fishing lake that is stocked with catfish, bass and crappie. Visitors may rent non-motorized fishing boats or pedal boats (seasonal) at the Visitor Center. A barrier-free fishing pier is on the lake.

(NOTE: There is no launch ramp on the lake.)

Canoe Rental Service ♦ Canoes with life jackets and paddles may be rented at the Visitor Center for floating the Black River or for exploring the in-park 12-acre lake. (Note: River float rental fees include put-in and haul-back service. Please call before coming to check on river conditions and availability of rentals. 24-hour reservations are required).

Picnicking ♦ Davidsonville Historic State Park is one of the largest and most popular picnic spots in the area. Visitors enjoy spreading their picnic fare on tables under the shade of the oaks along the lake. Two screened pavilions are available for reservation for a nominal fee for group functions or family affairs. A deposit is required. Two playgrounds are near the picnic area and the pavilions.

Visitor Center ♦ In addition to the exhibits, the Visitor Center offers snacks, postcards, t-shirts, state park souvenirs and camper registration.

No persons shall excavate or search for artifacts or other material on state park property without written permission of the Director of State Parks.

LOCATION

From Pochontas travel 2 miles west on U.S. Highway 62 then south on State Hwy. 166 and go 9 miles to the park.

From U.S. Highway 63 at Black Rock, take State Hwy. 361. Travel 5 miles after crossing the bridge to the park.

For further information on park fees, services or reservations, contact:

Davidsonville Historic State Park
7953 Hwy. 166 South
Pocahontas, AR 72455
Telephone: (870) 892-4708
Fax: (870) 892-0480
e-mail: davidsonville@arkansas.com

IN CASE OF IN PARK EMERGENCY
(870) 892-7650 (870) 892-5377

For information on Arkansas's other fine state parks, contact:

Arkansas State Parks
One Capitol Mall, 4A-900
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1191
www.ArkansasStateParks.com



As a part of its conservation mission, Arkansas State Parks has printed this brochure on recycled paper. All park services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis. Arkansas State Parks is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Arkansas State Parks 2010

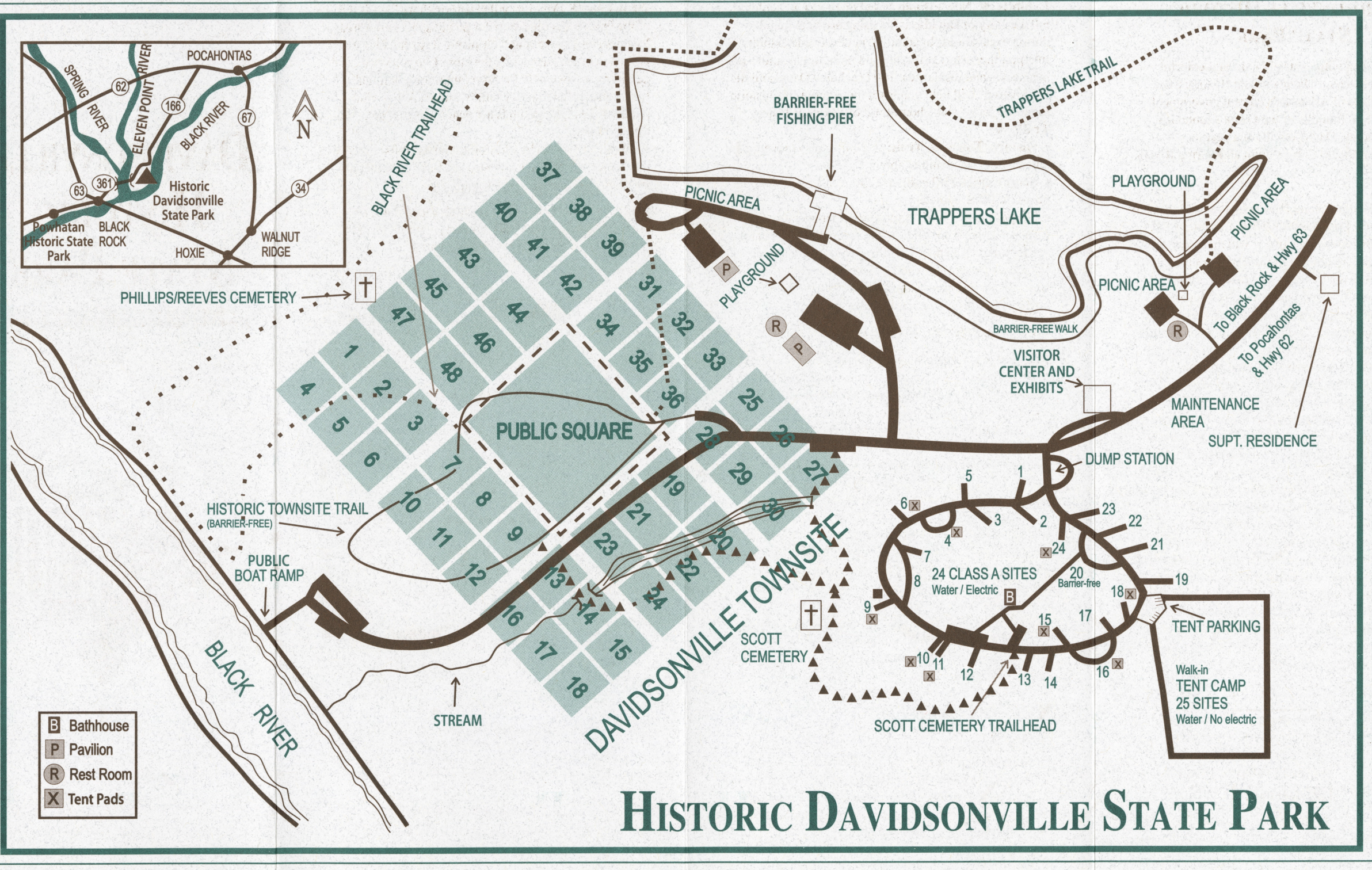
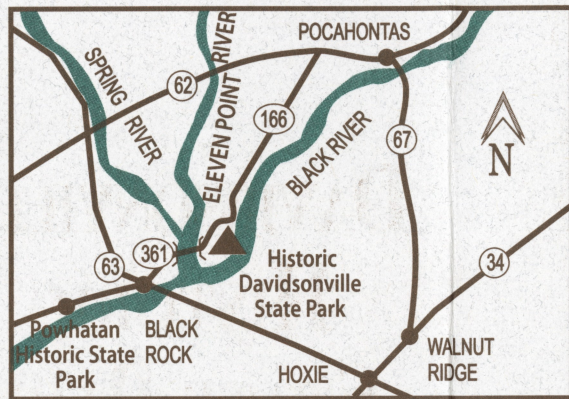
DAVIDSONVILLE HISTORIC STATE PARK



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!



HISTORIC DAVIDSONVILLE STATE PARK